I Claim:

1. A combination valve support and sealing element for use in a filter cartridge wherein the filter cartridge includes annular filter element having a hollow core and an end cap and is disposed in a housing closed by an end plate having central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from one another, the combination valve support and sealing element comprising:

a unitary body of flexible resilient material;

the unitary body having a central opening of a constant diameter, which central opening is coaxial with the central opening of the end plate, the diameter of the central opening being greater than the central opening and less than radial distances between the radial openings;

the unitary body having a first annular section which projects into the hollow core of the filter element for sealing with the filter element and a second section coextensive with the first section, the first annular section having a annular sealing ring thereon for sealing with the end cap and, the second section sealing only with the end plate around the central opening through the end plate;

the unitary body having a radially projecting flange which is axially spaced from the second section and projects radially beyond the spaced radial openings in the end plate for sealing around the spaced radial openings to provide an anti-drainback valve, and

a plurality of radially extending ribs on the radially extending flange, the radially extending ribs having rib portions projecting axially on the first annular

section of the unitary body and being axially spaced from the annular sealing ring on the first section of the body member, which annular sealing ring deflects inwardly when the filter element is clogged in order to provide a bypass for fluid when fluid is unable to flow through the filter element.

2. The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 1 wherein the ribs have radially extending portions which support the filter element thereon.

3. The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 2 wherein the axially extending rib portions engage an end cap on the filter element and provide axially extending gaps therebetween and wherein oil applies pressure to the sealing ring, which pressure causes to the sealing ring to deflect inwardly when a preselected pressure indicative of a clogged filter element is reached.

4. The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 1 wherein the radially projecting flange is arcuate.

5. The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 4 wherein the flexible resilient material of the unitary body is rubber.

6. The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 1 wherein the flexible resilient material is rubber.

7. A valve support and sealing element in combination with a filter cartridge in which the filter cartridge includes annular filter element having a hollow core and end cap with a flange that extends into the hollow core, the filter cartridge being disposed in a housing closed by an end plate having central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from one another, the combination comprising:

a unitary body of flexible resilient material;

the unitary body having a central opening of a constant diameter, which central opening is coaxial with the central opening of the end plate, the diameter of the central opening being greater than the central opening and less than radial distances between the radial openings;

the unitary body having a first annular section which projects into the hollow core of the filter element for sealing with the filter element and a second section coextensive with the first section, the first annular section having a annular sealing ring thereon for sealing with the flange of the end cap and, the second section sealing only with the end plate around the central opening through the end plate;

the unitary body having a radially projecting flange which is axially spaced from the second section and projects radially beyond the spaced radial openings in the end plate for sealing around the spaced radial openings to provide an anti-drainback valve, and

a plurality of radially extending ribs on the radially extending flange, the radially extending ribs having rib portions projecting axially on the first annular section of the unitary body and being axially spaced from the annular sealing

ring on the first section of the body member, which annular sealing ring deflects inwardly when the filter element is clogged in order to provide a bypass for oil when oil is unable to flow through the filter element.

8. The combination of claim 7 wherein the ribs have radially extending portions which support the filter element thereon.

9. The combination of claim 8 wherein the axially extending rib portions engage the end cap on the filter element and provide axially extending gaps therebetween and wherein oil applies pressure to the sealing ring, which pressure causes to the sealing ring to deflect inwardly away from the end cap flange when a preselected pressure indicative of a clogged filter element is reached.

10. The combination of claim 7 wherein the radially projecting flange is arcuate.

11. The combination of claim 10 wherein the flexible resilient material of the unitary body is rubber.

12. The combination of claim 7 wherein the flexible resilient material of the unitary body is rubber.